

Tartan Park Golf Course

The 3M Club of St. Paul Makes Environmental Stewardship Its First Priority

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Acorn gathering, bluebird fledging, rescuing wildlife and nest box building...just everyday occurrences at the Tartan Park Golf Course in Lake Elmo, Minn. Tartan Park is a private club for employees, guests and retirees of the 3M Corporation. While maintaining a 27-hole championship golf course and recreational park, Tartan Park's cooperators



Great Horned Owl

are making the long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship and wildlife habitat conservation. One example of Tartan Park's willingness to "give back" to the community was its involvement in an "acorn gathering" project in cooperation with the Forestry Division of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Facilities superintendent **Joe Moris**, along with an enthusiastic group of volunteers from the Tartan Park Audubon Committee, spent one Saturday collecting over 24 bushels of acorns that will be used in a Minnesota reforestation project. The acorns from Tartan Park will become burr and white oak seedlings that will be planted in Minnesota state forests and sold to forest landowners and managers.

On a busy summer day last year, Tartan Park members spotted a great horned owl that appeared to be injured near one of their tes. They became suspicious when the owl did not leave when approached by humans, and immediately called the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota at St. Paul. A representative from the Raptor Center captured the ailing owl and took it back to the center for observation and care. The owl was, indeed, very ill. It had an injured wing, a number of blood parasites and was nearly starving. The experts at the Raptor Center nursed the owl back to health and then the owl was released at Tartan Park to its natural habitat.

ACSP committee members have also been involved in a vigorous bluebird nest box program and have fledged over 850 bluebirds in the last 12 years! They have erected

an osprey platform and have organized Saturday bird box building days. Just in February, committee members put together many American kestrel and warbler houses with the help of the maintenance personnel.

All of the hard work and dedication of the Audubon Committee and the staff at Tartan Park has paid off, according to Facilities Superintendent Joe Moris. "At Tartan Park, we are continually amazed at people's interest and commitment for the Audubon program. Whether from a news article or an Audubon presentation, interest is sparked, and more people want to 'become part of this Audubon thing.'" He continues, "We can honestly say it's been a learning experience and fun at the same time, and we look forward to the road ahead and the people we will meet as we proceed in the Audubon certification process."

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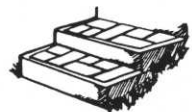
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